



WA State Veterinarian

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

MAY 2019

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Reportable Diseases and Rule Making 2

Reportable disease stats 3

Animal Disease Traceability Update 4

Equine Herpes virus 4

DOH Rabies Guidance 5

CE Opportunity 6

State Vet on a Mission

State Veterinarian Brian Joseph has been deployed overseas with the Army Reserve, leaving his duties and responsibilities in the capable hands of other WSDA staff until early this fall.

Assistant State Veterinarian Dr. Amber Itle is serving as Interim State Veterinarian, assuming responsibility for Animal Disease Traceability and Animal Health. Dr. Ben Smith is the Assistant State Veterinarian.

Jodi Jones is the WSDA Interim Animal Division Assistant Director with authority over administration, budget, legislation, the livestock identification program and compliance.

Dr. Joseph shared his path to enlisting in the Army Reserve's Veterinarian Corps, the war zones he has found himself in over the past 10 years, and his motivations for service. Click [here for the full article](#):



Dr. Brian Joseph examines a golden jackal (*Canis aureus*) for zoonotic disease, rickettsia, hemoparasites parasites and ticks.

Equine Disease Alerts on EDCC

The Equine Disease Communication Center (EDCC) is an industry-driven initiative which works to protect horses and the horse industry from the threat of infectious diseases in North America. Reports of infectious and vector-borne disease cases are received from a state veterinarian, state animal health official or attending

veterinarian, are confirmed and formed into comprehensive alerts, which are then posted on the on the [EDCC Outbreak Alerts](#) page. Alerts are sent to subscribers by email and posted on social media (check out their [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages). The email blast list is a free service. Anyone can sign up for EDCC email alerts on

their [sign-up page](#). The WA State Vet's Office uses this tool to get timely information at to subscribers. For more information on how alerts are formed and how the EDCC functions, visit the EDCC [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page.

Reportable Diseases



WHEN To Report?

All reportable diseases must be reported to the State Veterinarian's Office upon suspicion of clinical disease.

Any confirmatory diagnostic test results should be submitted.

Do not wait for test results to report! The State Veterinarian's Office can provide guidance to veterinarians on testing, appropriate biosecurity, and additional requirements.

WHAT to Report?

Any suspected clinical case of a reportable disease

Any highly unusual condition, unusual clinical signs of any kind

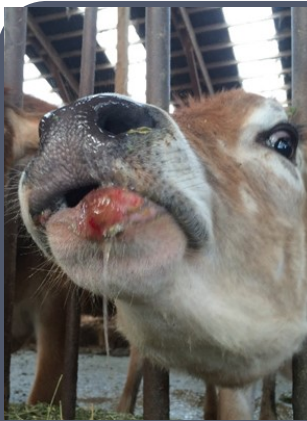
Any high morbidity and/or mortality event

Any clinical signs that look like foreign animal diseases, or infectious disease or parasites of animals which was not previously known

All cases of acute equine neurologic disease

How to Report?

<https://agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/AnimalHealth/docs/3057ReportableDiseaseReport2018.pdf>



Cow with grass awn abrasions can look like Foot and Mouth Disease

Help Us Make Reporting Easier

The State Veterinarian's office has received feedback from veterinarians that the current list of reportable diseases and requirements for reporting have made the process confusing, difficult to interpret, and cumbersome. In order to make the animal reportable disease list more user friendly and encourage regular reporting from veterinarians, the Animal Services Division in the State Vet's office is looking to revise the [Washington Administrative Code \(WAC\) Chapter 16-70 – Animal Disease Reporting](#).

Because of the importance we place upon your participation, it is our intention to provide you a more user

friendly list and thus speed the process for reporting. We know that as professionals you are busy and that an electronic method of reporting would be ideal. It is our intention to encourage increased reporting and improve communications overall in partnership with you. We would appreciate feedback from private practitioners on how to best streamline this rule for users.

Please send suggestions to:

mbuswell@agr.wa.gov

Fax: (360) 902-2087

Mail: WSDA

PO BOX 42577

Olympia, WA 98504-2560

Proposed changes include but are not limited to:

- Removal of all disease already included on the OIE Notifiable Disease List in 16-70-010. This would mean that all diseases in this section are only in addition to the OIE list
- Differentiate "reportable and actionable" from "reportable for monitoring only"
- Simplify reporting times, i.e. report in 24 hours, monthly etc. This would categorize diseases to "actionable" and "monitored". Actionable disease would be reported immediately and monitored diseases could be reported monthly.



Olive Spaulding, Dr. Brian Joseph's grand dog

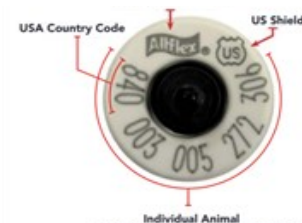
April 2019 WA Reportable Disease Stats

Disease Reported	Animal	Number
Brucellosis (<i>Brucella canis</i>)	Canine	3
Cryptococcus (not <i>neoformans</i>)	Feline	1
Equine herpesvirus-1, Wildtype EHM	Equine	1
Heartworm	Canine	3
Leptospirosis	Canine	1
Clostridium difficile toxin A & B, Clostridium perfringens alpha toxin & Clostridium perfringens beta2	Equine	1
Strep Equi (Strangles)	Equine	2
Feline Corona Virus	Feline	1

USDA to Phase out Free Metal Tags

Last week, USDA published a new factsheet entitled, “Advancing Animal Disease Traceability: A Plan to Achieve Electronic Identification in Cattle and Bison” The factsheet clearly outlines USDA’s plan to phase out free metal official tags and replace them with RFID by 2023.

Animal disease traceability helps animal health officials know where diseased and at-risk animals are, where they’ve been,



and when. This information is essential during a disease outbreak. USDA is currently working to strengthen its traceability system to protect the long-term health, marketability and

economic viability of the U.S. livestock industry.

While there are several steps USDA needs to take in order to strengthen its traceability system, the most essential one is to move beef and dairy cattle, as well as in bison. The electronic tags use radio frequency identification (RFID), which speeds information capture and sharing. [Read the full article here:](#)

RFID Implementation Timeline

December 31, 2019

USDA will discontinue providing free metal tags. However, approved vendors will still be permitted to produce official metal tags for one additional year. Approved vendor tags will be available for purchase on a State by State basis as authorized by each State animal health official through December 31, 2020.

January 1, 2021

USDA will no longer approve vendor production of metal ear tags with official USDA shield. Accredited veterinarians and/or producers can no longer apply metal ear tags for official identification and must start using only official RFID tags.

January 1, 2023

RFID ear tags will be required for beef and dairy cattle and bison moving interstate that meet the above requirements. Animals previously tagged with metal ear tags will have to be retagged with RFID ear tags in order to move interstate. Feeder cattle and animals moving direct to slaughter are not subject to RFID requirements.

Cattle Required to have Official RFID by 2023

Beef Cattle and Bison

Sexually intact and 18 months or older
Used for Rodeo or Recreational events

Dairy Cattle

All female dairy cattle
All male dairy cattle born after March 2013

Equine Herpes Virus is Forever

EHV-1 and EHV-4 are relatively common as a mild respiratory disease. EHV-4 occasionally causes abortion in unvaccinated mares. Equine Herpesvirus Myeloencephalitis (EHM), the neurologic form of either EHV-1 or EHV-4, is rare, but is potentially fatal. The neurological disease presents itself as a result of damage to blood vessels in the brain and spinal cord associated with the herpes infection.

If the horse has neurologic signs and a positive PCR test, we classify it as a case of Equine Herpes Myeloencephalopathy (EHM). EHM can be “wildtype or Strain A” or “neuropathogenic or Strain G.” Both strains can cause equine herpesvirus myeloencephalopathy (EHM). Typically the wildtype does not tend to be as contagious as the neuropathogenic type. However, the State Vet’s office treats them the same way when a case is detected. Horses

that test positive and the premises in which they are housed will be quarantined. Clinical horses will be required to be isolated and will require two negative PCR tests prior to quarantine release.

Remember to always take nasal swabs and serum for buffy coat PCR testing to capture both acute and clinical infection phases. Otherwise, you may get a false negative. Remember to report all cases of acute neurologic disease to the State Vet’s office. Find the [WSDA blog on EHV here](#)



Rabies Guidance from DOH

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH GUIDE FOR VETERINARY OFFICES

Handling Calls About Bat Encounters

An encounter with a bat can put a person or pet at **risk of rabies**, and must be taken seriously. What's an encounter? Any known or suspected physical interaction between a bat and a person or pet. What if the caller is not sure? Bat bites may go unnoticed, leaving little or no evidence of a wound or puncture. If they woke with a bat in the bedroom or see a bat laying near their cat, consider uncertain situations like these encounters.



1

Have caller contact their LHJ immediately.

The **Local Health Jurisdiction (LHJ)** determines if the bat encounter poses a risk of **rabies** exposure to a person or pet. If a person is at risk, the LHJ arranges for the bat to be tested at the state public health laboratory.

- Gather basic information about the bat encounter and caller's contact number. Give this information to the LHJ to ensure the caller receives follow-up.
- Tell the caller to not release a live bat or throw out a dead bat until the LHJ determines if the bat needs to be tested for rabies.

2

Make sure pet's rabies vaccination is current.

- Confirm that dogs, cats, and ferrets are up-to-date on their rabies vaccinations.
- Consult with LHJ on how to handle confinement and observation periods for exposed dogs, cats, and ferrets.
- For pets with potential exposure to rabies—as determined by the LHJ—encourage the caller to make an appointment with a veterinarian immediately for a rabies booster vaccination.

3

Encourage testing of the bat if only pet exposure occurred.

Bats that have had contact with a pet only—as determined by the LHJ—should be tested for rabies.

- Pet owners can pay for testing to be done at **Oregon State University, Veterinary Diagnostic Lab**, 541-737-326.
- Consult with the LHJ on how to safely transport and how/where to have the bat humanely euthanized prior to rabies testing.

Why is it important to test the bat? If it tests negative, your pet is not at risk of rabies infection. If the bat tests positive for rabies, the pet owner should focus on observing the pet more closely during the observation period defined by the LHJ, even though the pet was booster vaccinated.

DOH Resources

- **State Public Health Veterinarian:** Dr. Ron Wohrle 360-236-3369 and ron.wohrle@doh.wa.gov
- **Local Health Jurisdiction Contact Information:** doh.wa.gov/aboutus/publichealthsystem/localhealthjurisdictions
- **Rabies:** doh.wa.gov/youandyourfamily/illnessanddisease/rabies
- **How to Safely Capture a Bat for Rabies Testing:** doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/Pubs/420-190-BatTransportInstructions.pdf
- **Rabies Vaccination Requirements for Pets:** doh.wa.gov/youandyourfamily/illnessanddisease/rabies/petvaccinationrequirement

More Resources

- **Oregon State University, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, Rabies Submissions:** vetmed.oregonstate.edu/diagnostic/rabies-submissions
- **Public Health-Seattle & King County, How to safely capture a bat in your home (video):** youtu.be/Fd8PMAc6T2c
- **WDFW Wildlife Rehabilitation Centers in Washington:** wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/health/rehabilitation
- **WDFW Bat White-nose Syndrome Reporting:** wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/health/wns
- **WDFW Living with Wildlife-Bats:** wdfw.wa.gov/living/bats.html
- **AVMA Rabies and Your Pet:** avma.org/public/Health/Pages/rabies.aspx
- **NASPHV Rabies Compendium:** nasphv.org/documents/CompendiaRabies.html



DOH 334-427 April 2019

For persons with disabilities, this document is available on request in other formats.
To submit a request, please call 1-800-525-0127 (TDD/TTY 711)

The Department of Health has developed a [Guide for Veterinary Offices for Handling Calls about Bat Encounters](#).

This guide strengthens the connections between pet veterinary offices and their local health department when responding to public calls concerning bat encounters.

It stresses the importance of the public contacting their local health department immediately to triage possible human and pet rabies exposure.

Here is the updated fact sheet, [Safely Capturing Bats for Rabies Testing](#) that acts as a companion piece to the Guide.

The Guide can also be found on DOH's [Veterinary Resources](#) webpage under zoonotic disease prevention.

CE Opportunity



VS NATIONAL TRAINING AND EXERCISE PROGRAM

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

NEW WORLD SCREWORM

**WEBINAR:
MAY 2, 2019
11 AM EST**

**THE WEBINAR WILL
BE RECORDED**

**THIS WEBINAR IS OPEN
TO APHIS PERSONNEL
AND EXTERNAL
STAKEHOLDERS**

Purpose/Objective: John Welsch and Pamela Phillips will be the presenters for the webinar. John will discuss some of the history of the screwworm program, including the people who came up with new ideas, conducted the science to prove the theories, and implemented the results to make the Screwworm Eradication Program successful. Included will be the sterile insect technique, mass rearing, surveillance and dispersal. Pamela will discuss the use of remote sensing to classify screwworm habitats in order to specifically direct field activities such as trapping and sterile fly release. Included will be how the techniques and protocols that she developed are used to direct dispersal of sterile flies aerially over large areas, and the placement of ground release sites in specific areas due to local ecological, geographical, and meteorological conditions.

Participant Webinar Instructions

The conference begins at 11:00 AM Eastern Time on May 2, 2019; you may join the conference 10 minutes prior.

Step 1: Dial-in: 1-877-369-5243 or 1-617-668-3633

Access Code: 0403201##

Step 2: Join the conference on your computer.

Entry Link: <http://ems8.intellor.com/login/814584>

When you access the entry link above, you will be provided a choice - to install the WebEx plug-in for your preferred browser or to join the web conference using a temporary path. Either option is acceptable. Need technical assistance? Call the AT&T Help Desk at 1-888-796-6118 or 1-847-562-7015.

COMING IN JUNE

ADT Program Update— Vets can learn how to get free readers and tags

African Swine Fever— Everything you need to know

Update on Virulent New Castle disease in California



Washington
State Department of
Agriculture